

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, GH

SUBJ: CIVAIR: US-GHANA NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ACCRA 6816

1. US-GHANA NEGOTIATIONS FOR BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT RECESSED NOVEMBER 30 WITH AGREEMENT TO MEET AGAIN ASAP AFTER FURTHER REVIEW BY GOVERNMENTS. GHANA DELEGATION SAID TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE RESUMED IN ACCRA AND NO LATER THAN MARCH. USDEL SAID IT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT MEET THIS SCHEDULE.

2. DELEGATIONS RESOLVED ALL BUT THREE TEXTUAL MATTERS, TWO OF WHICH ARE MINOR. REMAINING TEXTUAL ISSUE IS US CONCEPT OF EX POST FACTO REVIEW OF CAPACITY VERSUS GHANA VIEW THAT EACH COUNTRY HAS RIGHT TO DENY PROPOSED CAPACITY CHANGE, BUT THIS ISSUE IS PROBABLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE BOTH SIDES.

3. STUMBLING BLOCK WAS GHANA INSISTENCE THAT ROUTE RIGHTS BE GRANTED TO GHANA AND THAT GHANA'S ROUTE BE MIRROR IMAGE OF US ROUTE. DESPITE FACT GHANA DELEGATION RECOGNIZED THIS WOULD GIVE US SERIOUS PRECEDENT PROBLEMS, AND DESPITE FACT GHANA DELEGATION EXPRESSED NO REAL
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WISH FLY TO US, ALL USDEL PROPOSALS WERE UNACCEPTABLE,

APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF INFLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONS, PRESUMABLY FROM MAJOR ASANTE. US PROPOSALS TO GRANT TRAFFIC RIGHTS

FOR BLOCKED SPACE OPERATION AND APPROVE CHARTER FLIGHTS WERE NOT VIEWED AS AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR GRANT OF UNFETTERED ROUTE RIGHTS. IN END, DELEGATIONS SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATIONS RECORDING RESULTS INCLUDING LAST OF SEVERAL US PROPOSALS ON ROUTE QUESTION. IN BRIEF, THIS PROPOSAL WAS THAT ROUTE SCHEDULE TO AGREEMENT PROVIDE THAT ROUTES FOR BOTH COUNTRIES ARE TO BE AGREED AT A LATER DATE. THERE WOULD BE AN ACCOMPANYING EXCHANGE OF NOTES PROVIDING THAT, PENDING SUCH AGREEMENT ON ROUTES, EACH SIDE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS BY AIRLINES OF OTHER SIDE FOR CONTINUATION OF PRESENT AIR SERVICES OR FOR NEW OR ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND RECIPROCITY. WE EXPLAINED PRIVATELY, TO DWEMOH AND AKKO THAT THIS FORMULATION WOULD WORK ONLY IF US COULD BE CONFIDENT THAT GHANA WOULD NOT, UPON SIGNING AGREEMENT, TURN AROUND AND EITHER SUSPEND OR REDUCE PAN AM'S PRESENT OPERATIONS, SINCE USG COULD NOT BE PLACED IN POSITION OF LOOKING FOOLISH. DWEMOH AND AKKO APPEARED UNDERSTAND POINT, BUT WERE CLEARLY NOT ABLE RESPOND NOR IN POSITION IMPLY THAT DELEGATION'S INSTRUCTIONS MIGHT BE CHANGED.

4. DWEMOH AT ONE POINT SAID PAN AM'S OPERATIONS PENDING NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WERE SECURE, BUT LATER SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO ASSURE THIS. WE CHOSE NOT TO HIGHLIGHT THIS MATTER, IN BELIEF THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM.

5. TALKS WERE FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT. SEVERAL PRIVATE MEETINGS WERE HELD WHERE BOTH SIDES WERE CANDID ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS.

6. MEMO CONSULTATION BEING POUCHED. RUSH

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